



## FROM THE COVER

## DANIEL AND THE LIONS

## DANIEL 5 (NIV) CONT.

Medes and Persians cannot be canceled or changed.”<sup>9</sup> So King Darius made the law and signed it.

<sup>10</sup>Daniel always prayed to God three times every day. Three times every day, he bowed down on his knees to pray and praise God. Even though Daniel heard about the new law, he still went to his house to pray. He went up to the upper room of his house and opened the windows that faced toward Jerusalem. Then Daniel bowed down on his knees and prayed just as he always had done.

<sup>11</sup>Then the supervisors and satraps went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup>So they went to the king and talked to him about the law he had made. They said, “King Darius, you signed a law that says, for the next 30 days anyone who prays to any god or man except you, the king, would be thrown into the lions’ den. You did sign that law, didn’t you?”

The king answered, “Yes, I signed that law, and the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be canceled or changed.”

<sup>13</sup>Then they said to the king, “That man Daniel is not paying any attention to you. He is one of the captives[a] from Judah, and he is not paying attention to the law you signed. Daniel still prays to his God three times every day.”

<sup>14</sup>The king became very sad and upset when he heard this. He decided to save Daniel. He worked until sunset trying to think of a way to save him. <sup>15</sup>Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, “Remember, King, that

the law of the Medes and Persians says that no law or command signed by the king can ever be canceled or changed.”

<sup>16</sup>So King Darius gave the order. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May the God you serve save you!” <sup>17</sup>A big rock was brought and put over the opening of the lions’ den. Then the king used his ring and put his seal on the rock. He also used the rings of his officials and put their seals on the rock. This showed that no one could move that rock and bring Daniel out of the lion’s den. <sup>18</sup>Then King Darius went back to his house. He did not eat that night. He did not want anyone to come and entertain him. He could not sleep all night.

<sup>19</sup>The next morning, King Darius got up just as it was getting light and ran to the lions’ den. <sup>20</sup>He was very worried. When he got to the lions’ den, he called to Daniel. He said, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to save you from the lions? You always serve your God.”

<sup>21</sup>Daniel answered, “King, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel to save me. The angel closed the lions’ mouths. The lions have not hurt me because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, King.”

<sup>23</sup>King Darius was very happy. He told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions’ den. And when Daniel was lifted out of the den, they did not find any injury on his body. The lions did not hurt Daniel because he trusted in his God.

<sup>24</sup>Then the king gave a command to bring the men who had accused Daniel to the lions’ den. The men and their wives and children were thrown into the lions’ den. The lions grabbed them before they hit the floor. The lions ate their bodies and then chewed on their bones.

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote this letter to all the people from other nations and language groups all around the world:

Greetings:

<sup>26</sup>I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel.

Daniel’s God is the living God; he lives forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His rule will never end. <sup>27</sup>God helps and saves people. He does amazing miracles in heaven and on earth.

He saved Daniel from the lions.

<sup>28</sup>So Daniel was successful during the time Darius was king and when Cyrus the Persian was king.

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## # DAILYTRIUMPH

Make your own Daily Triumph headline! Stop by the Newspaper Backdrop to capture a photo, then share your Daily Triumph photo and headline on social media using #dailytriumph.

A four-week teaching series by Stephen Armstrong

# END TIMES

Wednesdays  
May 11 - June 1, 2016  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Crownridge Campus



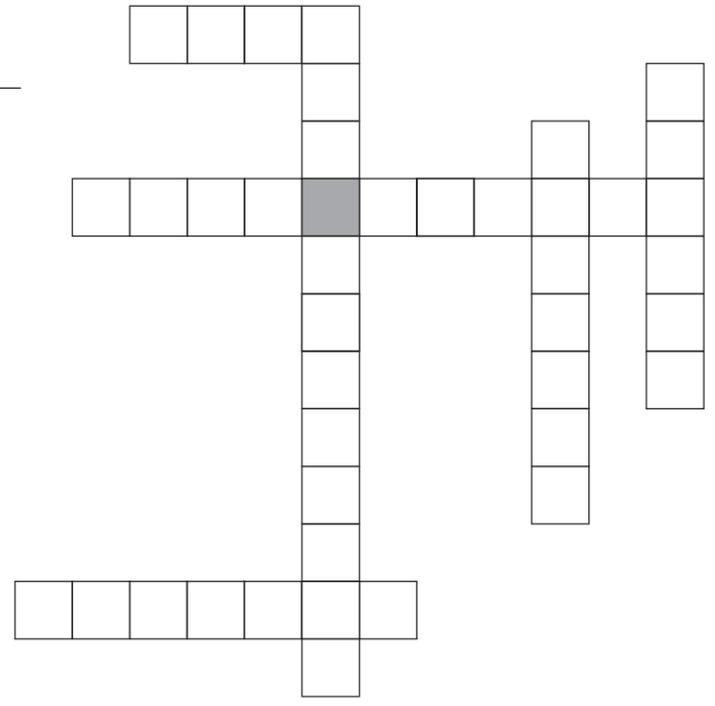
THE  
**GOSPEL**  
PROJECT.  
FOR KIDS

Daniel Was Rescued from the Lions

Daniel 6

E	N	D	A	R	I	U	S
I	T	O	N	R	D	Y	N
H	R	A	L	G	O	D	O
U	U	T	E	Y	A	E	I
N	S	D	I	K	B	Y	L
G	T	R	N	I	O	A	T
R	L	K	A	N	G	R	B
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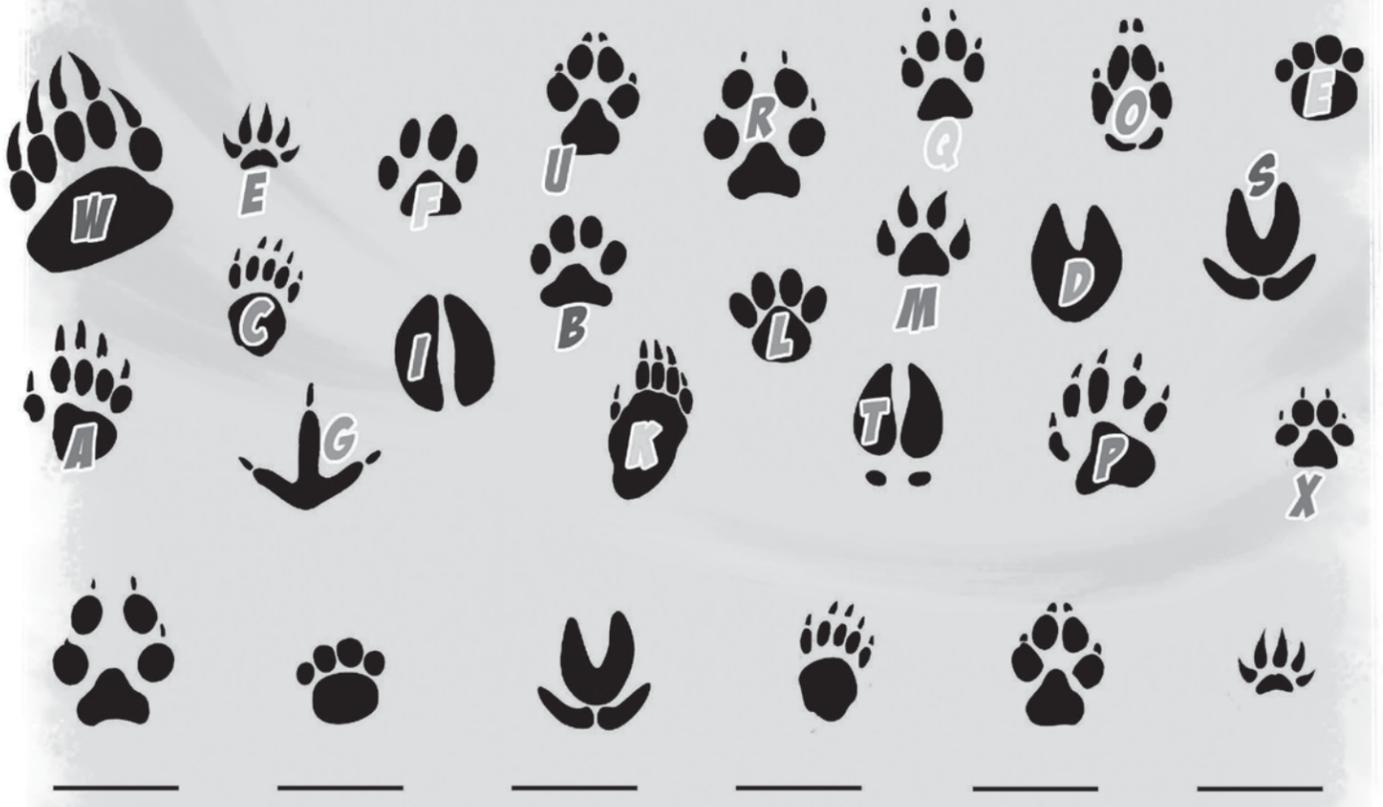
ALMIGHTY  
CREATOR  
FATHER  
GOD  
HOLY SPIRIT  
KING  
MAJESTY



BABYLON	KING
DANIEL	HUNGRY
DARIUS	LIONS
DEN	PRAYED
GOD	TRUST

### Lion Paws

**Instructions:** Find each matching paw print, and write the letter near that print below its match at the bottom. What word do you find?



## COMMUNITY

# THE SPOTLIGHT



## JORGE SAN PEDRO | OUTER WEST COMMUNITY MINISTER

**Area |** Brennan, Lytle, Medina Valley, Southwest ISD, Stevens, Taft, Warren



**Email |** JorgeS@oakhillschurch.com  
**Phone |** 210.698.4654

### How did you end up in community ministry?

We moved back to San Antonio in July, 2010 after an absence of 10 years. We arrived just before Randy preached the sermon series *Project Go*, and we were excited to get involved with our neighbors. I was volunteering in the Outer West, leading the Warren area, when I was invited to join the staff as a Community Minister in April, 2011. It is wonderful to help people make intentional connections with those God has put around them!

### What do you enjoy most about your neighborhood?

The diversity of people God has put around us; in addition to believers from a wide variety of churches, we also have Muslim, Sikh and Hindu families who live in our neighborhood, and others who don't know the Lord. In our group we have had Catholics, Episcopalians, Baptists, as well as Oak Hills Church members learning from each other and sharing the difference God has made in our lives.

### How have you seen God at work through one of your community groups?

We had a family in our neighborhood that went through a very trying time. Our neighborhood group helped them with meals and kept them in prayer. This family joined us for our *BELIEVE* study for 30 weeks. Being part of our group helped them heal from the challenges they had faced. They recently shared with us they're having a baby, which was a great answer to prayers!

## RUDY TAMEZ | CLARK & MARSHALL COMMUNITY MINISTER

**Area |** Clark, Marshall



**Email |** RudyT@oakhillschurch.com  
**Phone |** 210.698.4625

### How did you end up in community ministry?

From reading the book *The Connecting Church*, we were challenged to get to know our neighbors and play more in the front yard. We had just bought our first house and wanted it to be a home where we could connect people to Jesus.

### What do you enjoy most about your neighborhood?

We enjoy the diversity in our neighborhood. Living in the medical center has brought people from all over the world into our neighborhood. We enjoy learning about new cultures and especially new foods.

### How have you seen God at work through one of your community groups?

Seeing a mailbox conversation become an open door for a neighbor to learn the life transforming truth of God's love for her. A two-minute conversation led to an eternal change for her and opened a door for her family to see God's transforming love at work in her.

BUSINESS



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We've been blessed with talented, hardworking construction teams, who are making amazing progress on the new Crownridge and Alamo Ranch Campus buildings. Although the past couple months were filled with storms, these teams haven't slowed down! At Crownridge, the transformation of the Bluebonnet Nursery into new administrative offices is nearing completion. Renovations to the Crownridge classroom wings have begun, and are on schedule for completion in August. For the new Worship Center, exterior roofing, framing, sheathing and waterproofing continue. While inside, duct work,

plumbing and mechanical installations are underway. At the Alamo Ranch campus, the interior wall framing and exterior steel trim are underway. And the water and sewer utility infrastructure is nearing completion. The vision for making more room and reaching our neighbors for Christ is coming together!

**To learn more about our vision, stop by Information Central today to pick up a Vision Guide. If you feel called to give financially toward the We Are Called Vision Campaign, visit [oakhillschurch.com/called](http://oakhillschurch.com/called)**

STORIES

## NERF BATTLE BUILDS COMMUNITY

by Marissa Villa

Even something as simple as a birthday party has the potential to change a neighborhood.

When it was time for Josiah Semenov's birthday party, his parents knew they wanted to make it special, even if on a budget.

"We were more interested in an experience for him rather than toys," Josiah's dad Jay Semenov said.

So the Semenovs took

7-year-old Josiah's love of nerf guns to the next level and decided to have a nerf battle at their home.

But the birthday party turned into something much bigger. The nerf battle became a way for Jay to expand on something he felt passionate about: giving fathers a chance to bond with their sons.

After finding a local feed store willing to let him use some bales of hay, Jay bought

about 1,000 little nerf darts, some safety goggles and what happened next was pure joy.

"We just let the kids go at it -- they were having a blast," Jay said. "Then the parents started to participate. All the cool older kids saw how much fun the kids were having, too."

The Semenovs realized that what they were experiencing needed to be shared.

"I wanted to do this on a much bigger scale," Jay said.

So come Memorial Day weekend, the Semenov's neighborhood will be home to what is perhaps the biggest nerf party in San Antonio. Dads and their boys will be invited to the party.

Giving fathers and sons in the

neighborhood an opportunity to have fun and bond means a lot to Jay.

"My personal passion is seeing a fathers reconciliation with his children -- to have an event to allow father's to have interactions with their sons -- I believe it's priceless. Not only does it bring men together, but it builds up other men," he said.

And he hopes those opportunities he's providing for the neighborhood will extend to his two sons, as well.

"We're talking about hospitality, accepting people, putting them first, serving them," Jay said. "It's all about working on the heart. I believe it's my role as a father to teach them that. Nobody else can fulfill this role."

CULTURE

## OHC VALUES

With the promise of our destination after life given to us through the Word of God we know where we are going. Our values tell us that "it matters how we get there." God wants us to reach His desired destination, but He is concerned and involved in how we come through the journey.

We believe our biblical values will guide us as we journey through life both as a church body and individually as we apply them to our families, neighborhoods, schools, and communities. As you live these values you will see that they are all interconnected like a finely woven fabric; each impacting the other in big ways.

Imagine seeing unity throughout the Body of Christ and watching it extend into your family and community. Imagine grace, truth, and faith

planting itself in your core and broadening its roots to your relationships and interactions with every person in your life. As these bleed into your life, your family as the core teaching and discipling center will grow and be an example to all the families in your neighborhood. While people in your neighborhood see this they will want to be a part of Christ's community and we will enthusiastically welcome them because we value inclusivity. And as this cycle continues and every believer ministers in their own way to those around them, people are constantly changing because of God, who we seek in all decisions through prayer.

**Learn about the values of Oak Hills Church at [oakhillschurch.com/ourvalues](http://oakhillschurch.com/ourvalues)**

### UNITY

We seek to promote unity in the Body of Christ.

### GRACE, TRUTH & FAITH

We offer grace, stand for the truth, and live by faith.

### FAMILY

We embrace the family as the core teaching and discipling center.

### INCLUSIVITY

We invite all people to belong to Christ's community regardless.

### EVERY BELIEVER A MINISTER

We view every believer as a minister.

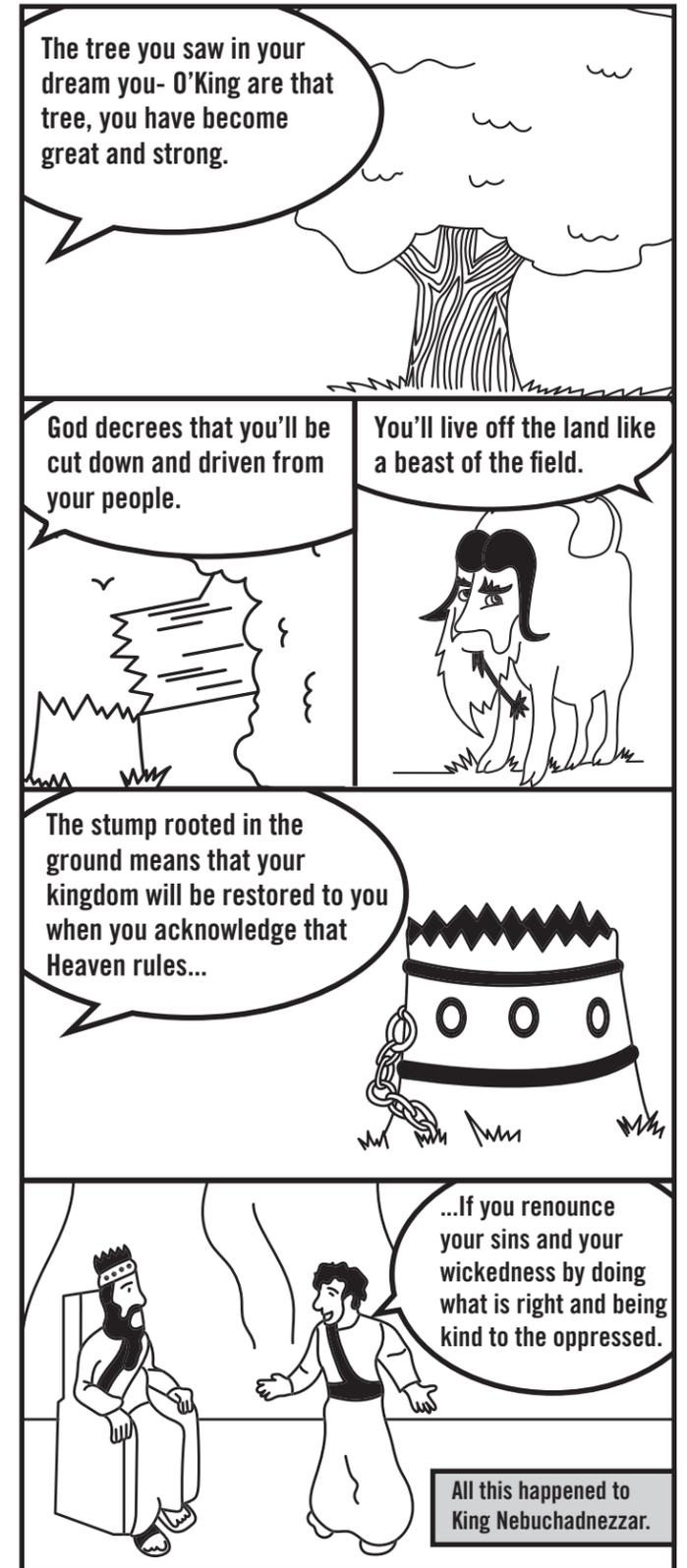
### PRAYER

We seek God in all decisions through prayer.

### NEIGHBORHOOD

We organize our efforts around neighborhoods.

COMICS



by Michael Craddock